

## UNICEF Commits to Three Mutually Reinforcing Regional Headlines



East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) contains some of the world's fastest growing economies and is home to the second highest number of 'innovative economies' in the world. However, the pace of change, innovation and technology-driven growth is also contributing to high or widening inequities. In today's Asia, the winners are those who are well-nourished and are confident and intellectually equipped to participate in the higher value-add segments of the economy; those who are resilient against life threatening diseases and are able to take advantage of opportunities when they arise; and those who receive relevant quality education that allows them to compete for high-skill employment. UNICEF EAP is committed to supporting governments and other duty bearers to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for children. To this end, the organization has unveiled three Regional Headlines for EAP that embody its contributions to the SDGs in full alignment with its 2018-2021 Strategic Plan goals.



### *Early moments matter*

Asia's most successful countries will be those whose decision makers recognize that achieving the equitable and sustained growth captured by SDG 8, requires investments to nurture and protect children's Cognitive capital: those cognitive abilities, socio-emotional and functional skills that stimulate creativity, flexibility and collaborative attitudes in children, from early childhood through adolescence. Optimizing children's capabilities requires supporting mothers and caregivers through the prenatal period and ensuring that children survive and receive the care and services they need during the first 1,000 days and indeed over the child's first decade of life to thrive. UNICEF can make a significant contribution to efforts on: 1) Maternal, new-born and child healthcare services; 2) Preventive and curative nutrition services; 3) Positive parenting; 4) ECD; 5) Quality learning in and out of school; 6) Multi-dimensional child poverty and social protection

### *Children grow in safe and sustainable environments*

Girls and boys in the EAP region live in one of the most dynamic parts of the globe, but they are constantly confronted with shocks and stresses that threaten their development. EAP is the most disaster-affected region in the world and the impacts of climate change are taking an added toll on livelihoods of vulnerable families. Rapid rates of urbanization are offering new opportunities while also exacerbating these vulnerabilities, posing new health risks and challenges for delivering adequate infrastructure and basic services; mitigating congestion and air pollution, and promoting social cohesion. UNICEF will contribute to efforts on: 1) Urban inequities; 2) Access to justice; 3) Safe drinking water and basic sanitation; 4) Indoor and ambient pollution; 5) Children and adolescent participation in climate action; 6) DRR and social cohesion



### *Adolescents' potential unleashed*

With over 60 per cent of the world's youth living in the larger Asia Pacific region, supporting this age group to interact with and adapt to a rapidly changing world, develop creative and critical thinking skills and fostering ideals of responsible global citizenship are all critical to unleashing their potential. UNICEF will contribute to efforts on: 1) Adolescent learning outcomes; 2) Gender responsive adolescent health and nutrition; 3) Prevention and protection from violence; 4) Child pregnancies and child marriage; 5) Safe spaces for participation, creativity and self-expression; 6) Safe access to and responsible use of ICT

# The Regional Headlines and the SP Goals

